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whole Earth newsletter

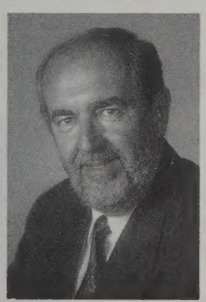
United Church Board for World Ministries Winter 1995, Vol. XXIV, No. 3

Thirty missionaries jointly appointed

Thirty recently appointed missionaries are now or will shortly be serving in 16 different countries. Included are two countries to which the UCBWM has never before sent personnel—Croatia and Hungary.

Jointly appointed by the UCBWM and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 10 of the 30 are working as teachers, six as pastors and several serve in medically related positions.

Laslo Medyesy, who as a boy weathered carpet bombing and the regime of



Medyesy: "Part of new possibilities."

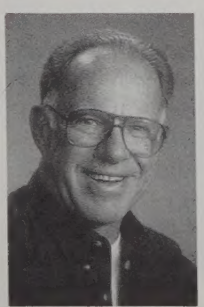
Joseph Stalin in World War II Hungary, returned to Budapest January 17. "I was a refugee, not only homeless but stateless, a most terrible thing," he reflected. "Now God wants me to be part of the new possibilities."

Previously pastor of the Evangelical & Reformed UCC in Wallingford, CT, Medyesy is on four-year assignment as a professor at the Department of Theology at Gaspar Karoli Reformed University. His job there will be to provide an American viewpoint in the educational process. He described the Church in Hungary as having wandered 40 years in the wilderness, now with great expectations—but limited resources.

Invited to serve a year with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, **Lois Hodrick** is volunteering at the Mt. Silinda Orphanage. She is a member of Mills Grove Christian Church in Oakland, CA. A nurse with 13 years' experience working for the Disciples in Zaire and Zambia, she said, "We go overseas to teach and to learn, maybe. We also need to be doing that here."

"We go to teach and to learn." — Hodrick

"One of the most important changes in myself is that I trust God more than ever before," said language teacher **Bob Porter**. "I am more confident in what I can give to the children in Sri Lanka. The center of my thinking has shifted to Sri Lanka."



"I trust God more than ever before." — Porter

Porter will begin his fifth term of three years in that civil war-torn country on February 28. He is a member of the Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA.

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Partner agreements to go to 20th Synod

The Board of Directors of the UCBWM has declared partnerships with two overseas communions, and has recommended action on these relationships by delegates at General Synod 20.

The agreements are with the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ) and the United Reformed Church (URC) in the United Kingdom. The relationship with the KCCJ was developed more formally in 1994. The Disciples are also establishing a relationship with the KCCJ.

The UCBWM has long been in partnership with the URC, and action on that agreement will be a reaffirmation of their relationship. The proposal to Synod is to make the KCCJ and URC ties "official," and better known to the wider church.

The KCCJ emerged from the Tokyo branch of the YMCA, established in 1908. It is an ecumenical Protestant denomination with a ministry focusing on Japan's Korean minority, seeking solidarity with other minorities in Japan and around the world. The KCCJ shares the same reformed heritage as the UCC, and like the UCC is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Its two Korean Christian Centers (in Osaka and Kita Kyushu) are bases for social action. Both the UCC and the Disciples have worked with the KCCJ for some time through the structure of the Japan-North America Cooperative Mission, of which all three parties are members. The KCCJ has bilateral covenant relationships with several churches in Japan and Korea, including the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan) and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, both partner churches of the UCC and the Disciples.

Like the UCC, the URC represents a

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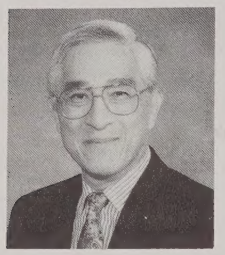
Message from the EVP



An invitation ...

By David Hirano

Recently I completed a three-week trip to Southern Africa where I visited Zambia, Namibia and South Africa. Each of these nations is in one stage or another of nation building. While the governments of apartheid have been destroyed, the legacy of apartheid is still present: unemployment, land ownership, poverty and a host of other ills.

As I spent time with folk in our partner churches and institutions, I felt the burden of colonialism—a legacy of apartheid so widespread and insidious, it angers and frustrates me.

Like the colonists who carved up the world, North Atlantic Christianity went into the world and divided it up. The comity agreements between denominations divided up the world. As one travels through the world we see what has happened as a result of the colonialism by North Atlantic Christianity. In many cases, that brand of Christianity went along with the flags of the colonists.

Perhaps it is because I grew up in a colonized state, Hawaii, that my sensitivities were pricked. My father came to Hawaii as a plantation owner, and my mother was born on a plantation.

What I experienced while living in Hawaii was what we called "plantation mentality"—colonialism by another name. Colonialism divides people, feeds on the work of people and saps the energy and spirit out of people, so that the goals of the plantation/colonialists can be accomplished. Colonialism says, "The plantation will take care of you, so don't rock the boat." Translation: plantation owners give you a place to live while they live in huge mansions.

We in the North need to decolonize our minds. We who are part of colonizing the world need to confess our sin, and then begin the work of changing our minds. We should no longer sing songs of triumph, but replace them with a new song which lifts up the love of God for all people—a love for God which does not come with the flags of Northern nations or ideologies of the North such as capitalism or materialism.

The task for us is to discover again the root of the Gospel, the love of God in Jesus Christ our Savior. It is a love that embraces all people and offers health and wholeness, blessing and mercy, justice and peace. It is an invitation and not an invasion.

The UCBWM is well along the journey toward the Common Global Ministries Board. This is a new song that is being composed. It stresses the ecumenical sharing of all the resources of the UCBWM and the Division of Overseas Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As we move into this joint venture, we are trying to decolonize our minds and move with the Spirit of God. Blessings and peace!

Peacock resigns as GE&A exec.; Rumer consulting

Susan C. Peacock has resigned as the UCBWM Secretary for Global Education & Advocacy (GE&A).

She will continue working for the UCBWM on a limited basis as a global education trainer, with a particular focus on the See-Judge-Act method—which integrates social analysis, theological reflection and action, and has been used by people of faith in Latin America and southern Africa.

While discerning next steps, she is also working on projects with the Center for Ethics and Economic Policy and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Serving as GE&A staff consultant during the interim period is Dr. Patricia Rumer, former general director of Church Women United and former area executive for the UCBWM's Latin America and the Caribbean Office.

Patricia Rumer

Rumer is coordinating work on the "50 Years is Enough!" campaign and representing the UCBWM on the Christian Faith: Economic Life and Justice and the Integrity of Creation, Justice and Peace interagency tables.

As GE&A executive staff Peacock also directed the international public policy, corporate social responsibility, human rights and United Nations efforts of the UCBWM, and managed the UCBWM's Global Advocates Network of 5,000 members.

Susan Peacock

From 1987 to 1991 Peacock served as a UCBWM associate missionary based in Cuernavaca, Mexico, while she worked as Mexico program coordinator for the Center for Global Education of Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, planning and leading travel seminars throughout Central America.

She has also taught undergraduate courses and was a volunteer missionary with the Mennonites in Bolivia.

Daniel Romero, general secretary of the UCBWM's Mission Program Unit, will be overseeing the work of the GE&A Office during this period.

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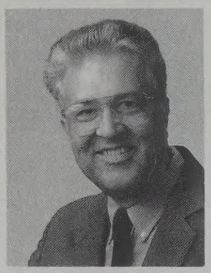
Around the Region: Africa

Bolenge—site of care and hope

By the Rev. Dan C. Hoffman, Area Executive, Joint Ministry in Africa



Each morning at sunrise the 14-kilometer road winding along the great Zaire River from Mbandaka to the mission station at Bolenge is filled with the sick and their families. The main government hospital at Mbandaka has ceased to function for lack of funding and pharmaceuticals. Under long-lasting dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, Zaire has regressed into a cycle of conflict and chaos, leaving government health and educational facilities financially stranded without regular support of any kind. The ill make their way to Bolenge for treatment at the Bolenge Evangelical Hospital, a Disciples' facility that has conducted ministries of healing for nearly a century.

On the day I visited Bolenge in late October, Dr. Bouto Somatoko, the French-trained head of the hospital, and one other Zairian physician were frantically trying to consult patients in this filled-to-capacity equatorial health facility. Outside the main building, more than 100 relatives of the patients had set up palm branch shelters and were cooking on open-fire stoves.

Dr. Bouto explained the hospital's mission: "We are here to continue Jesus' ministry of healing to the local population. As government facilities have closed for lack of funds, more and more people are coming to us. Recently we noticed an increase in kwashiokor (a severe vitamin deficiency caused by malnutrition) and measles among the children. The main building is always full. We are looking toward moving our obstetrics ward to an unused house here on the campus, if we can secure the necessary funds to convert the house into a clinic. People sometimes spend two or three days on canoes trying to get here. We work in the name of Jesus Christ and we can't turn them away. Most of them are unemployed and have no access to currency of any kind. In fact, this whole part of Zaire is no longer a money economy. It is based on barter. What can you expect in a country where inflation is 10,000% annually?"

During 1994 the Bolenge Evangelical Hospital treated more than 16,000 patients. The most frequently treated disease was malaria. But physical healing is not the only purpose of the Bolenge Hospital. Spiritual healing and reconciliation are promoted as well.

In February 1993 rioting soldiers took over Mbandaka, looting houses and businesses. The looting spread to Bolenge. The story was told of one soldier who had participated in a looting spree at the hospital during which valuable medicines and equipment were stolen. Several weeks later he was hurt in a car accident and was taken to the hospital. When he recovered, he apologized during the daily chapel service for doing harm to the very institution that saved his life.

The Joint Ministry in Africa provides UCC and Disciples support to the Bolenge facility and to other ministries of healing across the African continent. These ministries—sometimes dramatic and sometimes quiet—are acts of caring and hope. They represent the good news of wholeness—and the news is so good that people will row a canoe three days and nights or walk 14 kilometers through rainforests to receive it!

Since 1992 ***Dr. Hoffman*** *has headed the Joint Ministry in Africa program of the UCC and the Disciples, responsible for linkages of both denominations with African churches and ecumenical organizations. From 1982-88 he chaired the Africa Committee of the NCCC/USA, and since 1983 has been an annual delegate to Africa-related roundtables sponsored by the World Council of Churches.*

For more information *about Zaire, other areas of Africa or related issues, contact Hoffman at the Joint Ministry in Africa Office, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986.*

Opportunities

- Retiring UCBWM missionaries Ruth and Wallace Robeson will host a Turkey mission tour June 17 to July 1, 1995. The itinerary will include Istanbul, Ankara, Tarsus and Izmir, as well as Biblical sites the Apostle Paul included on his journeys, the locations of the seven churches of John's Revelation, and other ancient Greek and Roman cities. For additional information contact either Russell and Mary Van Zandt at 608/676-4570 or John and Marilyn Eyster at 608/868-3585.
- A work/travel trip to Palestine and Israel is set for July 14 to August 3, 1995, organized by the Middle East Committee of Westmoreland Congregational UCC in Bethesda, MD, in cooperation with the UCBWM and Christ Episcopal Evangelical Church, Nazareth. While in Nazareth participants will paint and repair the historic Christ Church School. Biblical sites will include Galilee, Jerusalem, Gaza, Jericho and the Sea of Galilee. For information write Westmoreland's Nazareth Partnership, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816. Phone 301/229-7766 or FAX 301/229-0989. Applications are due by March 15, 1995.
- The Center for Global Education at Augsburg College is sponsoring a number of travel opportunities in 1995. Countries and dates are: Guatemala and El Salvador, May 3-15; South Africa, May; Mexico, June 8-15; Mexico, July 18-28; El Salvador & Nicaragua, August; Guatemala, June 3-10; Mexico, June 17-27; and Laos & Vietnam, June/July.

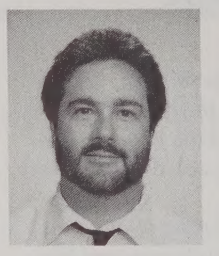
'Equipping' conference scheduled for April

"Equipping the UCC for Interfaith Realities," a conference built around workshops dealing with practical implications of interfaith processes for local settings, will be held April 20-23 in Chicago.

Dr. Jane Smith, of the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO, will be the keynote speaker. The conference will examine the changing religious landscape in the U.S. and explore the challenges and opportunities such changes present to the church's faith, life and witness.

For additional information send your name, address, phone number and the name of your UCC Conference to John Thomas, Office of the President of the UCC, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

Foreman volunteering in Croatia at school for blind



Foreman

Steven Foreman spent his 1993 Christmas holiday at a school for the blind in Zagreb, Croatia.

When he left he told children at the school he'd be back. "They looked at me like, 'Oh yeah, we've heard that before.'"

But he returned in September 1994 as a volunteer through the UCC-Disciples' Joint Ministry in Europe, training teachers and working with children as an orientation and mobility specialist—the same work he'd been doing in the Denton, Texas, area.

Steven's journey began in 1993, when he saw a photo of a child victim of the Bosnian-Serb war with bloody eye bandages. He checked the statistics on the conflict whose young victims are still piling up: more than 15,000 children killed or missing, and thousands more maimed. And he determined to go to the former Yugoslavia to see for himself what he could do to help alleviate the suffering. He was surprised to find *any* functioning facilities for the blind.

Steven's journey is still unfolding at the school, Vinko Bek, which houses 150 students and a couple hundred refugees from the region. It is the only functioning center in Croatia which provides care and education for blind and visually impaired children. Vinko Bek also serves refugee children from Bosnia-Herzegovina, where there is no such institution.

In addition, one floor has been converted to a haven for soldiers suffering eye injuries from Serbian-planted mines designed to explode above waist level.

A member of the Eastridge Park Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas, Steven lost about 20 pounds the first three months. "I'm not starving or going hungry, but life is not easy here." Zagreb is within the sites of Serbian artillery.

Steven's "anchor" in the U.S. is Cynthia Hudson, who maintains a newsletter on Steven's ministry and occurrences in the Croatia/Bosnia area, and a "needs list" of materials for the children. She can be reached at 214/855-8058 or FAX 214/855-8200.

UCC folk reaching out . . .

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING receipts from UCC members have made it possible to reach out and help relieve human suffering in various regions of the world, including:

✓ **FLORIDA:** As many as 18,000 farmworkers facing unemployment due to vegetable/fruit crop losses caused by Tropical Storm Gordon will be the recipients of a shipment of black beans and rice. The food is being distributed by the Florida Council of Churches. (Most Florida farmworkers do not qualify for standard unemployment benefits since they have not been on the job for the required 12 consecutive weeks.)

Raquel Rodriguez, UCBWM/DOM program assistant in the Latin America/Caribbean Office, reports that Gordon "washed out entire small villages and many people have died." Though no exact statistics are known, the toll of dead or disappeared persons is over 1,000.

UCC President Paul Sherry and UCBWM head David Hirano ask that UCC folk continue praying for Haiti, and send directed gifts marked for Haiti through their local churches and Conference offices. More information is available from the UCBWM Office for Global Sharing of Resources at 212/870-2283.

✓ **RWANDA:** Church World Service is beginning a program of placing orphaned Rwandan children with Rwandan families. Women who receive orphaned children into their families become eligible for income-generating initiatives and low-interest micro enterprise loans through a revolving credit fund.

✓ **FORMER YUGOSLAVIA:** The UCC's OGHS and the Disciples' Week of Compassion funds have provided a shipment of 1,025 school kits to children in Bosnia-Herzegovina—enough for every first grader in Mostar. Youngsters are particularly pleased to receive the school kits, and reportedly guard them like prized possessions.

Prayer for Rwanda

Jesus Christ, our Lord, your passion and death troubled the hearts of your friends. They were consoled by the message of Resurrection: "Peace be with you." Tell us again these words today and help us tell them with you: "Peace over Rwanda, peace to the heart of each Rwandan." You know our sorrow and pain. Nothing is impossible for you. Set our mutilated tongues free so that we can learn again how to greet one another with the words of tenderness and compassion.

— Excerpted from "A Day of Prayer for Rwanda" by Augustin Karekezi, Rwandan Jesuit priest

Disaster response

One Great Hour of Sharing receipts and special gifts have made possible the following disaster aid since September 1, 1994. (Figures in **bold** are disbursed from **OGHS** monies; the others are distributed from directed funds.)

Africa region

- $111,329, Church World Service (CWS) for continued aid to victims of civil strife in Rwanda
- **$2,500**, CWS for flood victims in Senegal
- $7,500, CWS for shipping a 40-foot container of food to Angola

East Asia/Pacific region

- $4,000, United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) for repairs to the home of a church partner
- **$2,000**, UCCP for medical aid to a church partner
- **$2,000**, UCCP for aid to indigenous peoples displaced from their ancestral lands
- **$5,000**, CWS, Philippines disaster relief from earthquake/tidal wave on Mindoro Island
- $5,000, CWS, aid to displaced persons from Mt. Pinatubo mudflows
- $2,000, CWS, Papua, New Guinea, victims of volcanic eruption

Europe region

- **$2,000**, Exodus Refugee/Immigration,

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How We See It From Here

***Jennifer Russell,** vice president of the UCBWM Corporation, traveled to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina recently, and shared some observations on what is happening in the former Yugoslavia.*

Talented, educated people are quitting the former Yugoslavia every day. The

Russell (right) with Bosnian friend at Camp Arnauti, near Zenica in central Bosnia.

people who will be needed to rebuild the infrastructure are going elsewhere. The risk to them and their families is great. If they can find a way out, they go, seeking a free and safe place in which to put down roots. The other nations of the world will benefit from these departures.

"This lack of tolerance led to their persecution and eventually to their conversion to Islam."

We need to learn and teach tolerance. Bosnians (44% Muslim today) were once Christian. Theirs was a controversial kind of Christianity that was treated with greater tolerance by the Muslim Turks than by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches. By the 10th century a sect known as Bogomils (God have mercy) had taken root among the Slavs. Their belief in a simpler faith caused them to be denounced by both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. This lack of tolerance led to their persecution and eventually to their conversion to Islam.

*UCBWM Corporate Board member **Elizabeth Cutting** and husband David worked as volunteers in August at the **Asian Rural Institute** in Japan, which trains third world leaders in sustainable self-development of food. She wrote about the difference in how first and third world peoples view food.*

"Third World people have the fear that even if they have sufficient money, the food won't be there to buy."

Most of us are concerned about maintaining our standard of living, or making it even more comfortable for ourselves. Even those (of us) who live below the poverty line—including the jobless and the homeless—believe that all they need is money, and they can get anything they need. Third world people have the fear that even if they have sufficient money, the food won't be there to buy.

We showed a video of Arizona, and Dave must have stressed more than he realized the dryness of the area and that we don't grow garden crops commercially. Afterward a young man from Nigeria asked very seriously, "What do you do if there's a drought?" I realized he had no concept of what it meant to live in a country so vast that everything was available and could be shipped to any part of the country so that, for instance, a state like Arizona could live on the produce of California. If there is a drought in Nigeria there is no hope, except in difficult international trade agreements and donations from nations of good will.

***Keith Fleshman** works in Kathmandu, Nepal, doing general and orthopedic surgery. In a recent letter he shares a slice of the Nepali worship experience.*

Church life for foreigners is what they make it to be. Since democratization four years ago the once-illegal church has blossomed, and is growing faster than one can count. Tansen has three congregations—"Up," "Down," and Four Square. In general the church is conservative, congregational, Baptist-like with a pentecostal-charismatic rinse. Worship services are at least two hours long, 50% singing and filled with praise and prayer. Short sermons are 45 minutes. Meeting rooms have no chairs. Men sit on one side of the room, women on the other, and small children crawl back and forth between.

"For most of us the international mix and the interdenominational mix are a pleasure, a blessing, an early taste of the peaceable kingdom."

In response to the caste system, pantheism and reincarnation theologies of Hinduism, there is strong emphasis on the unity and fellowship of all Christians, on freedom, and on the unique personhood and aliveness of both the uncreated Godhead, the resurrected Christ and individually created Christians. There is also strong emphasis on listening for and obeying God's leading of each individual.

The Nepali Church of course functions in local languages. Expatriates usually have a parallel fellowship which does not pretend to be a congregation but does give opportunity for singing and preaching in English. Even the English speakers can have inter-English confusion because North American, English, Irish, Scots and Australian varieties are at times quite distinctive. Even hymn tunes vary.

For most of us the international mix and the interdenominational mix are a pleasure, a blessing, an early taste of the peaceable kingdom. We wish that sectarian boundaries were as indistinct in our homelands.

Partners *(continued from page 1)*

union of churches from different confessional heritages, specifically the Congregational and Reformed traditions. It, also, is a member of both the WARC and the WCC. The inclusion in the URC of the former Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ parallels the ecumenical partnership between the UCC and the Disciples in the U.S. and Canada.

Numerous past and current contacts and relationships between the URC and the UCC include congregational and other partnerships, pastoral exchanges and individual congregant participation in each other's church events. The year 1995 marks the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the London Missionary Society—in whose successor body, the Council for World Mission, the URC has a significant role.

Issue Perspective:

Happy Birthday to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund! They're celebrating Number 50!

Are your eyes glazing over with the prospect of one more story on these international financial institutions? If so, then you—like many other North Americans—do not see the linkage between the economic downsizing in the North with the impact of the debt crisis in the South.

Why should we be concerned about what happens in the South? How do the World Bank and IMF policies affect the United States? What are the connections between these complex financial institutions and our lives? Perhaps some examples might demonstrate the connections.

". . . linkage between the economic downsizing in the North with the impact of the debt crisis in the South."

JOBS

Two months ago, when I applied for unemployment insurance, there was a special category on the application. The question was, Have you been laid off or lost your job because your company moved to Mexico or another southern country? A "yes" to this question brought extras: job retraining and additional financial support. When Congress approved NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) a year ago, they also allocated monies to help those workers who lost their jobs.

Impact of Government Budget Cuts in the U.S.

"Housing assistance declined 80% between 1976 and 1989, while real estate speculation pushed housing costs up 300%. Federal aid to cities is down 60% from the 1981 level. Medicaid (which Congress is studying for possible cuts) covered 65% of the poor in 1976; by 1984 only 38% of the poor were covered. The number of people who work fulltime but are poor has increased by 50% in the past 13 years. 18% of full-time workers fall below the poverty line."

Global Advocates Bulletin, p. 31, October 1994.

FACT: An estimated 1.8 million jobs were lost in the U.S. because of the debt crisis and the resulting recession in developing countries. The debt crisis refers to the debt incurred by governments in Africa, Asia and Latin America during the 1970's and 1980's which took out loans from commercial banks and some governments in the North.

American workers have lost jobs and small farmers have lost land while these banks have been making 28 to 35% interest on loans to developing countries. *In addition*, the banks were granted $40 *billion* in tax relief. How did that happen? The banks have continued to demand payment in full while reporting losses from these loans (the losses are deducted from taxes they owed the U.S. government)!

LINKAGES

The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was created almost 50 years ago, and shares some similarities with the World Bank and IMF. The NAFTA with Mexico and Canada, and now Chile, is a regional arrangement within the context of GATT. What some Americans fear—and are beginning to experience—are major structural adjustments in our own economy, leading to job loss and flight of capital and corporations due to these free trade agreements.

According to *The New York Times* report on the passage of GATT in early December 1994, groups in favor of its passage included big business and big agricultural groups, while opponents were small farmers, consumer groups, unions, environmentalists and conservatives. Senator James Jeffords (R-VT) said that while free trade was "an admirable goal," it was "not worth threatening the lives" of his state's dairy farmers. The *Times* noted that where people came from had more to do with their votes on GATT than did party affiliation.

HOMELESSNESS

National news programs are reporting an alarming increase in the number of homeless families in shelters. They are also reporting on the fear of big city mayors that the new Republican-controlled Congress will cut aid to the cities for the homeless, when in reality the need is increasing.

"What some Americans fear and are beginning to experience are major structural adjustments in our own economy . . . due to these free trade agreements."

Church people—who operate many of the shelters—know that the need for housing is critical. But what does homelessness have to do with "Structural Adjustment Programs" of the IMF? What is the difference between being homeless in Africa or in Chicago?

Structural adjustment is what the IMF and the World Bank require of "developing nations" in exchange for loans to repay the debt these countries owe the North. Adjustment means deregulation or reducing barriers to free trade, the privatization of state-owned businesses, and participating in trade liberalization such as NAFTA and GATT. Cutting its budget is how a state reduces its expenditures: through layoffs of state workers and cuts in social programs such as education, health and housing.

In New York City where I live we read that Mayor Guiliani must cut the city budget by several hundred million dollars. City employees are being encouraged to resign with a special severance package. Incoming Governor George Pataki talks in terms of cutting Medicaid—medical coverage for the poor—in order to save $400 million, which is New York State's projected budget deficit.

Although the World Bank and the IMF may not be imposing a "structural adjustment program" on the U.S., the economic

World Bank, IMF

strategies and results are quite similar.

Heeding a call from its global partners about the disastrous impact of World Bank/IMF policies on their countries, the UCBWM has called for intensive education and advocacy work

on these international financial institutions during 1994 and 1995. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in his sermon at the 1993 UCC General Synod/Disciples' General Assembly meeting, argued that the debt burden facing Third World Nations is the *"justice"* issue in the 1990's.

Churches in the U.S. and throughout the world are often among the institutions called upon to minister directly to the needs of the poor in their societies. The United Church of Christ in local, regional, national and global settings has been a leader in developing ministries to respond to human need with local church benevolences through One Great Hour of Sharing.

"American workers have lost jobs and small farmers have lost land while these banks have been making 28 to 35% interest . . ."

The challenge to our church in this 50th year of the World Bank and the IMF is to understand the nature of the problem and then envision some alternatives. We have been funding micro-economic development projects for years, and thus we have some knowledge about what works when people are given control over their lives.

". . . we have some knowledge about what works when people are given control over their lives."

The UCBWM and the Joint Ministry in Africa Office of the UCBWM and the Disciples are members of the "50 Years is Enough!" campaign—a coalition of 125 organizations seeking to reform the World Bank and the IMF. More than 200 U.S. religious leaders have signed a "Declaration for Change" on the 50th anniversary of the IMF and the World Bank in 1994. The declaration calls upon international financial institutions to work to support global, social, political and economic justice by taking the following steps:

1. Replace Structural Adjustment Programs with policies and projects that meet the needs of the poor, promote sustainability and participatory and equitable development.

2. Cancel or substantially reduce multilateral debt—especially for the poorest countries—and increase support for the reduction of commercial and bilateral debt.

3. Democratize the World Bank and the IMF and make them accountable to the people affected by their policies and projects. This requires democratic voting allocations, increased transparency, access to information and participation at every stage of projects, programs and policies.

Impact of State Budget Cuts in the Third World

"In the 37 poorest countries, health spending per capita has been cut more than 50% in the past decade. Education budgets have fallen by 25%."

(UNICEF statistics)

UCC President Paul Sherry, UCBWM Executive Vice President David Hirano and 14 other national and Conference staff have signed onto the "Declaration for Change."

As people of faith and hope, we need to be informed about economic and political decision-making in our society and the world. Fifty years—a "Jubilee time" in the Judaeo-Christian tradition—is a good time to act for justice on behalf of all God's people.

Dr. Patricia J. Rumer, UCBWM Staff Consultant
"50 Years is Enough" Project

(Note: For further information, an educational packet is available on the World Bank/IMF from the UCBWM's Global Education & Advocacy Office or the Joint Ministry in Africa Office (UCC/Disciples). The October 1994 issue of Global Advocates Bulletin *provides regional analysis on the World Bank and IMF policies.*

A partner's view

" . . . no mission board has yet undertaken a partnership with a broad people's movement for socio-political transformation. One of (such a partnership's) components is a deep democratization process that would immediately expose and thwart any tendency in society to form any structure of oppression and injustice."

The above is from the address "Partnership for the Glory of God," delivered by Levi Oracion at last year's pre-Synod event. It challenged U.S. Christians to look at partnership beyond traditional ways.

In speaking of gifts of partners outside the U.S., Oracion told how some Christian communities took up the cause of the poor and oppressed. "A spiritual power of incalculable magnitude soon took hold among those involved in their struggle, and they carried on their work as if they were liberated from the fear of death."

He said the greatness of the U.S. is "shrouded in deep moral ambiguity," and has been attained "through an international economic mechanism that sucks in the wealth created by struggling peoples all over the world. And now from out of its bosom issues God's mission? This seeming contradiction can be avoided by a repentant yet kenotic spirit, a real emptying of self. . . . The concerted and massive push of such a society toward greater wealth, power and creature comforts permeates the lives of people so deeply, so conditions everything they do that nothing short of an existencia in Christo can endow Christians (with) the real freedom for mission, the freedom to pursue justice with the righteousness of God that is directed primarily to the pathetic, ugly and helpless creatures of the earth."

At the time Oracion was completing a term as missionary to the U.S. with the Presbyterian Church/USA. He has been an active and prominent member of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines—a UCBWM partner.

Due to interest in the challenges he poses, Oracion has made his paper available, and is willing to engage in dialogue with interested parties. He may be contacted at 100 North Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. For a copy of the paper write *Whole Earth Newsletter* at 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115.

NEW RESOURCES: OGHS, hunger

One Great Hour of Sharing offering materials for 1995, which have been mailed out to all congregations, are built around the theme of weaving and the importance of community in building a hopeful future in today's fragile world.

In addition to a promotion guide, poster, brochure, bulletin insert, offering envelope and pastor's booklet of materials, there are three additional OGHS items that may be ordered: *The Fabric of Faith*, a 10-minute video of recent OGHS relief efforts using the image of multi-colored

"We weave, we build, we work, we share Patterns in a tapestry; The fabric of our faith revealed In love that sets us free."

cloth featured in many of the 1995 materials; colorful stamps, to be used with the Sharing Calendar and a world map; and this year's offering bank. The colorful cloth, which visually ties together many components of the resource, symbolizes how a variety of gifts can be joined together to enrich the body of Christ. All three of the additional resources are available from United Church Resources, 1-800/325-7061.

Each of the 21 trading stamps in the 1995 series represents a mission project in which OGHS dollars are at work throughout the world and can be used with the Sharing Calendar and world map. Both the map and the stamps were drawn by children.

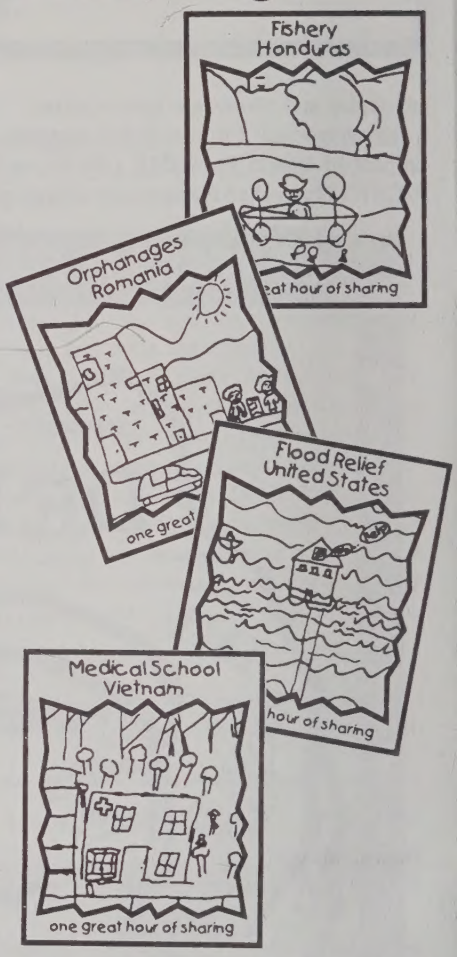
From WMUS, Hunger Action . . .

"In Haiti, food is shared with neighbors and friends. No one eats in front of another without offering to share. The phrase in Haitian that summarizes the attitude means 'cooked food has no owner.'"

Breads Around the World: Caribbean, the latest "breads" offering from

"Cooked food has no owner."

the UCBWM's World Ministries in the U.S. and Canada (WMUS/CAN) and the UCC's Hunger Action Offices, is now available. Included are recipes for Caribbean-style banana bread and coconut bread from Trinidad.



Also included in the brochure is a service for breaking the breads and information on the region, including a listing of UCC and Disciples' church partners in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

Copies are available free from the WMUS/CAN Office, 700 Prospect Ave., 6th Fl., Cleveland, OH 44115, 216/736-3212.

From the Global Education & Advocacy Office . . .

Walking in Integrity, the 1994 edition, is now available from UCBWM's Global Education and Advocacy Office. The latest issue includes the texts of all social screens currently in place on the UCBWM investment portfolio, as well as lists of companies excluded by each screen in which the UCBWM will not invest.

Copies at $3 each may be ordered from the GE&A Office, 6th Floor, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115, 216/736-3214 or FAX 216/736-3259.

Disasters *(continued from page 4)*

Inc., to help hire a caseworker to process Bosnian refugees in Indianapolis, IN
- $9,538, victims of civil strife in the former Yugoslavia
- $719, CWS, Armenia winter relief
- $715, CWS, hunger relief in the former U.S.S.R.

Latin America/Caribbean region
- **$20,000** and $20,000, CWS, Haitian coup survivors
- **$2,500** and $2,500, CWS, tropical storm Gordon victims in Haiti

Middle East region
- $4,000, CWS, flood victims in Egypt

Southern Asia region
- **$4,000,** International Voluntary Services, Inc., for a disaster preparedness project in Bangladesh
- **$5,000**, CWS, emergency de-mining operation in Cambodia
- **$4,000**, Laubach Literacy International for further support of a program to eradicate female infanticide in India

Disaster training
- **$1,528**, training for disaster response consultants

U.S. Midwest flood relief
- $50,000, Illinois Conference UCC
- $31,000, Illinois South Conf. UCC
- $60,000, Iowa Conference UCC
- $100,000, Missouri Conference UCC
- $30,000, Nebraska Conference UCC
- $75,000, South Dakota Conf. UCC
- $50,000, Wisconsin Conference UCC

U.S., other disasters
- **$5,000**, CWS (Texas flooding)
- **$5,000** and $5,000, South Central Conference UCC (Texas floods)
- $2,768, Southeast Conference UCC, Georgia flooding
- **$1,000**, South Dakota Conf. UCC, additional aid for tornado victims
- $40,433, Florida Conference UCC, continued aid to victims of Hurricane Andrew
- $40,433, Hawaii Conference UCC, continued aid to victims of Hurricane Iniki
- $10,000, Hope in Youth, c/o Southern California Conference UCC, for further earthquake assistance
- **$2,500**, CWS, for farmworkers/displaced families in Florida, victims of tropical storm Gordon

Faith in Action

"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."
—1 John 3:18

The Joint Ministry in East Asia/Pacific Office of the UCC and the Disciples, which supplied documentation on the sex industry problem in that region of the world, made an important contribution to the Crime Bill recently passed by Congress.

Some months ago Evan Farrar, program assistant in the EA/P Office, got in touch with Senator Joseph Kennedy's office in Washington, D.C., because he'd heard Kennedy was introducing a resolution on child prostitution. Advocacy for the hundreds of thousands of children being used to feed sex trade in that region of the world has long been a concern of both the EA/P and the Joint Ministry in Southern Asia Offices (see *Whole Earth Newsletter*, pp. 6-7, Winter 1994 issue).

> ***". . . indispensable in our efforts to bring the issue of overseas child prostitution before the Congress (to) end the role our citizens play in fueling the international sex trade."***

At the suggestion of Susan Peacock (then Secretary for the UCBWM Global Education & Advocacy Office) Farrar contacted Bill Spencer, an aide in Kennedy's office, and eventually offered to provide enough copies for each member of Congress of the brochure "Facts Have Faces: Children for Sale," developed ecumenically by the Global Education Office of the National Council of Churches.

After reviewing the "Facts" sheet with his aides, Kennedy included it in a mailing to all Congressional colleagues. Farrar then shared a copy of Kennedy's letter with our ecumenical partner, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism-USA, of which the EA/P Office is a member.

Included in the Crime Bill is a provision making it illegal for U.S. citizens to travel abroad for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with minors that would be illegal in the U.S.

The UCC and the Disciples, wrote Kennedy, were "indispensable in our efforts to bring the issue of overseas child prostitution before the Congress and to bring about the changes in U.S. law that can end the role our citizens play in fueling the international sex trade."

Church school reaches out

The "Word Among Us" church school group for ages 30-40 at First United Church, UCC, Belvidere, TN, spent some class time recently talking to UCBWM missionaries in Mozambique.

Class members set up a speaker phone system and talked with Larry and Carol Gilley, based in Maxixe, Mozambique. After about a 25-minute conversation with the Gilleys, class members decided to adopt the missionaries' "Books & Bikes" program to aid them in their ministries.

Carol takes stories students tell about the life of their community and writes and illustrates the stories and uses them as the basis for English and reading lessons. Larry is director of the Zakumbe Bible School, which prepares lay pastors to serve congregations and students to enter theological seminary.

The Rev. Karl Whiteman, First United's pastor, said the class made a financial commitment to the Gilleys' ministry above and beyond their regular Sunday School offering. "We're shooting for $300 this year." There are 10 class members. He estimates the phone call cost about $10.

'Disparity' in mission

Exposure of the colonial model of mission is the topic of the article, "WHOSE 'story to tell to the nations?'" which appeared in the November 1994 issue of The Disciple. It was written by Tom Montgomery-Fate, former UCBWM/DOM missionary to the Philippines. He now teaches at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL.

New appointments

(continued from page 1)

Lillian Moir, who previously visited Namibia on assignment as an interpretation officer for the Disciples, said she wants to "witness where there are few financial but great spiritual resources." She aims to tell the story of the Namibian people "as faithfully and sensitively as possible."

Moir: Wants to tell story "faithfully and sensitively."

Moir is serving as a communications officer for the Council of Churches in Namibia in the capital city, Windhoek. She is a member at Central Christian Church, Indianapolis.

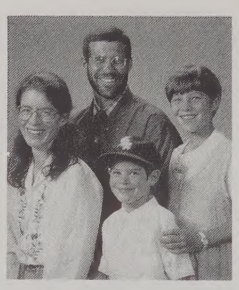
In March **Casilda Luzares** will return to Doshisha University, Japan, for three more years of teaching English. A Filipina, she sees the historic relationship of

Luzares: Symbol for woman means "not yet a person."

Japan and the Philippines as challenging, and wants to create a support system for Filipina women in Japan. She said the Japanese symbol for woman means "not yet a person."

"What I felt I could share with the Japanese was about myself, being a woman, a non-Japanese Asian, a widow of 17 years and a professor." Casilda's home church is the Church of the Holy Redeemer, United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

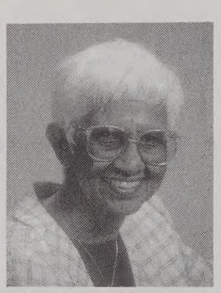
Ana and Tod Gobledale and children **Amy**, 10, and **Mandlenkosi**, 7, are returning to Africa after a four-year hiatus. The Gobledales most recently co-pastored the Congregational Christian Church, UCC, in Franklin, NH. Although they had served as missionaries in South Africa (where Amy was born) for seven years, the Gobledales had never before served a church in the U.S.



". . . values of community & family we missed when we came back." —Ana Gobledale

"After doing a ministry in the U.S., we are much better prepared to be the liaison between the mission church and the local church," Ana said. "There are values of community and family that we really missed when we came back, and we feel a responsibility to our kids to offer that."

They began their new term January 1, as pastor developers in a rural ministry at the invitation of the Zimbabwe Synod of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa—the same partner denomination with which they worked in the 1980's.



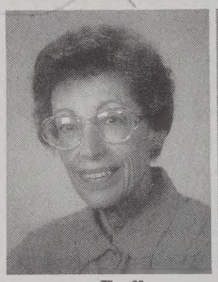
"You can take risks but you need not be afraid." — Samuels

Long-time nursing educator **Carmen Samuels** (Christian Fellowship Congregational, UCC, San Diego, CA) is serving as director of the Mt. Silinda School of Nursing. She believes mission is "synonymous with Christian faith. You can take risks but you need not be afraid if God is with you."

Betty and Martin Bailey began serving October 1 as volunteers with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). Martin is working as a consultant/journalist for the MECC's Jerusalem Liaison Office while Betty is coordinating lectures and courses of study at Tantur Ecumenical Institute, Jerusalem.

The Baileys are members of Union Congregational Church, UCC, Upper Montclair, NJ, where Betty recently completed 17 years as associate minister. Some long-term UCC'ers will remember Martin as editor of two former UCC publications, the *United Church Herald* and *A.D. Magazine*. He is also the retired Director of Communications of the National Council of Churches.

New appointees **Barbara Penney, Jane Fladd** and **Barry Young** are all teaching in China for two years. **Mary Ann Ezell**, United Church of Huntsville, AL, is doing the same in the Marshall Islands. **Maria Schlatter** will leave in April to teach at Kobe College, Japan. Although Maria has no prior missionary experience, she was in Africa last year and says she is "still learning from those experiences."

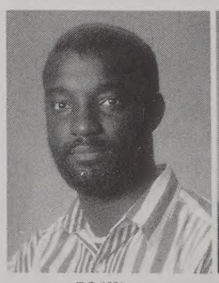


Ezell

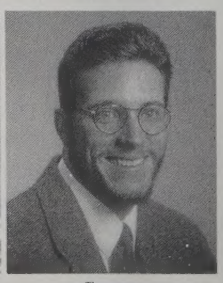
Schlatter

Former UCBWM Corporate Board member **Crispin Phillips** (St. Marks Congregational UCC, Roxbury, MA) is working as a personnel development coordinator in Jamaica. **Scott Couper** (Union UCC, Neffs, PA) is serving as a Global Mission Intern at the Transformation Resource Center in Lesotho. Also serving in Africa is **Karen Crist** (Trinitarian Congregational UCC, Warwick, MA) who began teaching December 1 through the Georgetown University Volunteers in South Africa Program.

David and Karen Eubank are Disciples who are volunteering for an additional two months to continue their evangelistic work among the Wa people of Thailand. Among other projects, the additional time will allow them to conduct a week-long school for Wa pastors.



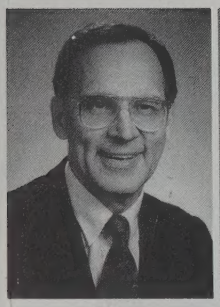
Phillips



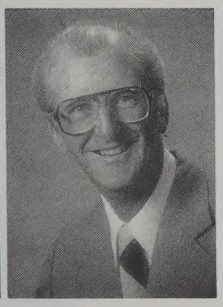
Couper

Bill and Theresa Anderson began their association with the Warsaw International Church in Poland October 1. Also serving in Europe are **Nancy and Roger Heimer**, United Reformed Church, London Parish (members of Northwood Christian

(continued next page)



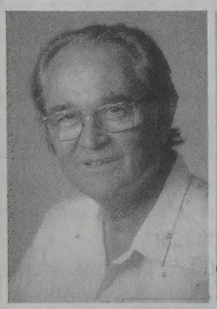
Heimer



Stevens

Church, Indianapolis); and **Brenda and Peter Stevens**, Purley United Reformed Church, Surrey, Great Britain. Brenda is a member of Community Congregational UCC and Peter of Pullman UCC, both in Pullman, WA.

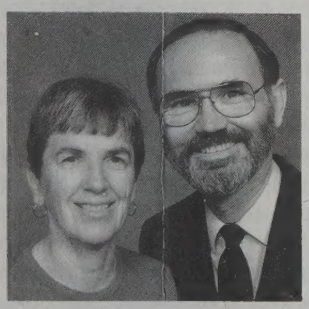
Roland Richmond started as a medical advisor in the field of otolaryngology at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, January 15. His spouse **Janice** is serving as an assistant in the chaplaincy department of the hospital. Members of Lynnhurst UCC, Louisville, KY, the Richmonds are volunteers.



Savage

Gilg

Returning for additional service are **Peter Savage**, director of a counseling center in the Dominican Republic and member of Norwell UCC, Norwell, MA; **Audrey Gilg**, who teaches in Japan and is a member of Peace UCC, Bensenville,



The Gilleys

IL; and **Carol and Larry Gilley**, Mozambique, Bowne Street Community Church, UCC, Flushing, NY. Larry is a teacher and Carol works with women.

(NOTE: See additional new missionary appointment story, page 4.)

CHRONICLE

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Joyce A. Baker, Honduras, four months beginning April 1, 1995.

Andrea Cano, Ecuador, four and one-half months beginning March 1, 1995.

Barbara L. Mueller, Japan, three months beginning May 1, 1995.

Linda A. Noonan-Ngwane, South Africa, three months beginning Dec. 1, 1994.

Jeffrey L. Phillips, Zimbabwe, five months beginning Oct. 1, 1994.

Amanda Shipman, Namibia, three months beginning Sept. 1, 1995.

Alison Stendahl, Turkey, nine months beginning Nov. 1, 1995.

RETIREMENT

Allen and Judith Myrick, South Africa, homebase staff and Zimbabwe, as of Oct. 31, 1994.

RESIGNATION

Colin and Karen Glenn, Honduras, as of March 31, 1995.

LOSSES TO THE FAMILY

Helen and Richard Brown, longtime contributors to the mission of the UCBWM and members of the Samuel Mills Society, were found dead of suicide in their home in Fort Lauderdale, FL, Dec. 5, 1995. Helen was a Corporate Member of the UCBWM from 1981 to 1987, and Richard had been a member of the board of directors of the UCC's regional Minnesota Conference. The Browns were both 40+-year members of Mizpah UCC in Hopkins, MN, where a memorial service was held Dec. 15. They leave three nieces and a nephew.

Miriam Judd, who served in China from 1932 to 1945, died June 23, 1994.

Lillie E. Keen, who served in Turkey from 1978 to 1980, died Oct. 31, 1994.

Kameel Nasir, director of the YMCA in East Jerusalem, died Sept. 27, 1994, after a long struggle with cancer. He was the son of Labib Nasir, who founded that 'Y' following the division of the city in 1948. The UCBWM has a close historical relationship to the East Jerusalem 'Y,' and was instrumental in getting it started. A number of UCC travelers to the Holy Land knew Nasir. UCBWM Middle East executive Dale Bishop called him "an unfailingly hospitable host and interpreter of the local situation."

Eva L. Pring died July 18, 1994. She served in Turkey from 1966 to 1970.

Edna M. Sipple died Oct. 29, 1994, at the age of 91 in Pleasant Hill, TN. She served in Japan for 32 years. She first trained kindergarten teachers throughout the six provinces of the Tohoku. She then married Carl Sipple in Sendai, Japan, and continued her educational mission at Miyagi College for Women, where she was a professor in early childhood education and principal of the kindergarten attached to the Junior College Department of Miyagi. In 1955, Edna was instrumental in establishing a kindergarten teacher training department there. She was well known for speaking about child care and the status of women.

She is survived by son Paul, of West Pawlet, VT, and daughter Marjorie Erboe, of Pleasant Hill.

Richard E. Stenhouse, 73, former UCBWM area executive for Africa, died Nov. 1, 1994. He had retired in 1986 after eight years of service in that office. He had also served as a missionary in Ghana from 1971 to 1978. He served primarily at Peki Theological Seminary, training pastors for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. He also served as principal of the seminary and emphasized the need for recruitment of women seminarians.

In the 1980's Dr. Stenhouse served as UCBWM consultant to the UCC Black Constituency and the Council of Racial and Ethnic Minorities. He was a long-time member of St. Albans Congregational Church, UCC, Queens, NY. He is survived by his wife Ella and three children—Vera, Richard Jr., and David.

Ralph F. Tuller, 73, a former president and director of the UCBWM who also served on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Conference, died Nov. 15, 1994, in Boston. Tuller was a member of the UCBWM's Finance and Investment Committee at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Andover Newton Theological School; a trustee of the Jaffna College Funds for that institution in Sri Lanka; served on the Board of the Massachusetts Congregational Fund, an endowment management fund for Massachusetts churches; and was a member of the Boston City Missionary Society.

He was a member of First Parish Church, Lincoln, MA, and is survived by his wife Joanne, two sons, Daniel, of Wayzata, MN, and Mark, of Basking Ridge, NJ, and two grandchildren.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

EVERETT A. BABCOCK
Hannah C. Babcock

MANO DEVARAJ
Dr. & Mrs. H. Telfer Mook

MARIE L. HIEB
Mrs. Albert B. Conkey

NELLIE G. PORTER
Ben S. Bryant

ROBERT D. PORTER
Ben S. Bryant

JOHN A. REULING
Muriel W. Henderson

GATTLIEB SIEGENTHALER
Mrs. Rowland V. Rider

RALPH F. TULLER
Dorothy F. Green

AMOS WILDER
Mrs. Amos N. Wilder

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Mini-consultation for women held in Johannesburg

Since 1989 the UCC/Disciples' Joint Ministry in Africa Office has been working to create more sharing between not only U.S. and African partners but intra-African partnerships. One of the most recent of these efforts was a mini-consultation for women held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ten women met last September, representing Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa and the U.S. The Joint Ministry was represented by Nelda Thelin, UCBWM/DOM missionary in the Transkei Region of South Africa, who works on women's issues and edits publications of the Women's Theological Group. A portion of her report follows.

Grace Mhlanga of the Kukhanya Kusha Zion Church in Swaziland spoke of customs that oppress widows. In Swaziland a widow must be clad in a black blanket for two years after the death of her husband. During this time she should not even look at a man, and remarriage is completely taboo. Her activities in both the church and community are limited. On the other hand a widower has no such restrictions. He is actually encouraged to remarry.

Joyce Bwalya from the United Church of Zambia shared the same concern. She reminded us of the recent death of many members of Zambia's football team in a tragic airplane accident. Property that belonged to both the men and their wives was immediately confiscated by the husbands' relatives. BUT these women did not simply accept the custom. They joined together and successfully presented their cases in the courts. Sometimes groups of women attend funerals for the explicit purpose of securing the right of the widow to her own personal property and that which she owned jointly with her deceased husband.

Arminda Essanjo from the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola gently spoke about the many men as well as women and children who have died in her country because of the war. Women in Angola worry about survival. She poignantly shared about her own escape from violence, her losses, her fears and the continued faith that sustains her. She emphasized the need for seminars and workshops on peace.

Evelyn Kariuki from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa acknowledged the feeling of helplessness which women experience when faced with violence, not only the violence of war but violence in the family, especially to women, girls and small children. She distributed a report on a seminar, Living Without Violence, sponsored by the Women's Desk of the National Council of Churches of Kenya.

Judy Makuzeni from the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) voiced her worries about groups of school children who act violently. They sometimes destroy school property and abduct and assault teachers. She spoke of a **tilted** understanding of democracy and the importance of teaching children in the home that there are other ways of solving problems.

Gilda Litsure of the United Congregational Church of Mozambique added that besides the obvious destabilization that results from war, violent behavior can also spring from poverty and hopelessness. There are many street children in Mozambique. Often these children abuse others even as they have been abused. She stressed the need for education, improved housing and job opportunities.

Bongai Mundeta from the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe told about an adult literacy program called **functional literacy**. With this approach students focus on their own particular needs. They learn language skills related to money, health, children, etc. She emphasized the problems associated with AIDS, especially the need for caregivers of HIV-positive orphans.

Malintle Pule of the Lesotho Evangelical Church was unsure about the seriousness of AIDS. She has not yet known a person with AIDS. However, she recognized the awesome implications for family relationships. She expressed a deep concern about church policies that encourage the separation of spouses. A minister can be sent to a remote area where there is no possibility of employment for the spouse. Meanwhile, the spouse may have a well-paying job and the family as a whole cannot afford to give up the additional income.

Merle Bergins of the UCCSA agreed that churches do sometimes discriminate against women. Although women have had leadership roles in the UCCSA for many years, there are still churches that resist women ministers, claiming it is foreign to their culture. However, the hardest thing to understand is that Christian women often reject women ministers and leaders in their churches.

Call 1-800/456-1310 for a recorded message from CWS on disaster response activities.